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03560.002835.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
HIROTO YOSHII ET AL.)
Application No.: 09/873,342)
Filed: June 5, 2001)
For: METHOD, APPARATUS, AND)
PROGRAM FOR PROCESSING)
SIGNATURE, AND STORAGE)
MEDIUM THEREFOR)
Examiner: N.Y.A.
Group Art Unit: 2632
April 19, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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APR 24 2002

Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of those documents are also enclosed.

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents, the Examiner is respectfully referred to the attached English abstracts and the cited corresponding patents.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. applications:

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>GROUP ART UNIT</u>
09/559,454	04/28/2001	2773
09/559,455	04/28/2001	2771
09/560,184	04/28/2001	2756
09/560,969	04/28/2001	2787

Copies of the cited applications are enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 28,496

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